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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SECURITY INFORMATION

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY China

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SUBJECT Airfields in the Vicinity of Shanghai

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1. Four airfields around Shanghai are used by the Red Chinese Air Force. These are the Woosung, Lunghua, Hungjao, and Nantao airfields.¹
2. The Woosung airfield, southwest of the southern section of Fort Woosung at the estuary of the Whampoo River on the East China Sea, was used for military purposes. It was occupied by twin-engine aircraft which practiced flying individually and in V-formation. Flying was done mostly during the daytime and seldom at night. When there was night flying, searchlights were in operation. No large-scale formation flying was practiced. Occasionally individual parachute jumps were made, but no mass jumping was observed.
3. The Lunghua airfield, a 15-minute car ride from the western edge of Shanghai, was previously a commercial airfield. After Shanghai was occupied by the Red Chinese, Lunghua airfield became a military airfield where Chinese pilots were trained by Russians in swept-back jet fighters. The Russians who lived there always wore civilian clothes. The planes always took off individually. Flying was practiced individually, in V-formation, or in echelon formation of three planes. The aircraft had under their wings the letter C and behind it a white number.
4. The Hungjao airfield, a 10-minute car ride from the northwestern edge of Shanghai, is northeast of Lunghua airfield. This field existed during the Nationalist regime. The Soviet headquarters to which the instructors of the Chinese pilots were subordinate was located there. These Russians also wore civilian clothes. There was the same air activity by swept-back jet fighters as at Lunghua airfield.
5. Nantao airfield, which existed during the Nationalist regime, was completely destroyed. It was reconstructed by the Red Chinese and apparently completed in August 1951.

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6. No air raid precautionary measures, such as construction of air raid shelters or splinterproof trenches, were taken in Shanghai. The many sirens were tested once a month upon notification in the daily press. In 1951, individual practice alerts were performed; during these alerts the roads had to be cleared, and car drivers had to leave their vehicles which were assembled in a large park in the city.

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1. [REDACTED] Comment. Presumably the informant is speaking as of August 1951. In the information that follows, the tenses are reported as received.

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